CENTRAL AMERICA.

GUATEMALA, THE LAND OF THE QUETZAL. A

FRoich. By WILLIAN T. BRIGHAM, A. M. Illustrated.

870, pp. 453. Charles Scribner's Sons.

Mr. Brigham has travelled through and resided in Guatemala with his practical s, eculative Amer-Ican eyes wide open, and in his criticisms as in his estimates appears the character of the man of affairs who cannot helped being vexed when he sees fine opjortunities for commerce or production thrown away. He has, however, his scientific side too, and his knowledge of botany adds value and interest to his descriptions of the luxuriant flora of this tropical region. Guatemala cannot be a very pleasant country to travel in. Primitive ways persist there. The people are sluggish, poor, indolent, half savage. The roads are generally bad. In half the villages there are no public taverns or posadas. The resting places, whether public or private, are usually unclean. Dogs, poultry and sometimes cattle share the amon sleeping-rooms. Insect life is too abundant for comfort. Venomous reptiles, huge snakes, tarantulas, and all manner of huge spiders, centipedes and scorpions, with alligators in the rivers and sharks on the coasts, afford perennial excitement of anything but an agreeable kind to the It would, however, be most inequitable to blame the Guatemalatecans for this state of things. What-

ever is in them has for centuries been repressed by tyranny. They are but now beginning to *merge from a long night of enslavement. The accursed Spanish system, based on ferocious cruelty and imbecile superstition, crushed them during three centuries. That they have real capabilities of no mean order has, however, been proved by the striking progress the State made in the single decade of Barrios's rule. His death was the most grave misfortune the little republic could have suffered. Had he lived ten years longer he would have established the prosperity of his country and given it an impetus sufficient to carry it forward a full generation; by which time the habit of progress would have been confirmed. The difficulties in the way of advance are those which affect all the Central and South American States. The climate fosters indolence and deprives improvidence of its terrors, and what the climate fails to do man has sought to accom plish by force and fraud. At present, according to Mr. Brigham, while the native resources of Guatemala are magnificent, and the prospects for the future, though conditional, yet hopeful, an immense amount of development has to be done, and apparently will not be undertaken unless by toreign capital. There is apparently not much encouragement

for American capital to enter into this work so long as United States commerce is practically excluded from the country. Nearly all the imports now are from Great Britain, which does a trade of between three and four million dollars a year there. This might be indefinitely extended if the country were opened up by railways, and if the Indolent planters were superseded by men of energy and foresight. Of course this is a large demand, and it is not at once apparent how it is to be met. It may be that the mineral wealth of Guatemala will soonest attract foreign capital, and that the needs of the mines will lead to the expansion of the railway system and the cultivated area. The soil will grow almost everything, and it is deep. To-day probably it does not produce a tithe of its capacity. In fact no scientific tillage is done. Even the plough is unknown. The earth is simply tickled with a hoe and laughs back a har-Labor is very cheap, an average day's wage teing twenty-five cents. Food also is cheap, and therefore railway construction should be economi-The climate is declared to be healthy, the usual tropical fevers being scarcely known. It must, however, be a long time before Guatemala for any other purpose than money-making, and so ong as the political situation and prospects of Central America continue uncertain there is no strong probability that American capital will seek that field of investment.

evidently knows the region quite thoroughly. There appears to be little or no danger in travelling, though there is plenty of crime among the halfsavage Indios. Indisposition to exert themselves in any way seems to be the leading characteristic. Of native manufactures woven fabries and pottery as well as the echo of a style which has lost its vogu are the chief staples, and much of the latter shows | Mr. Parkman writes the article on "La Sulle a high degree of skill. The cloth is made on a primitive looms, with reckless expenditure of refers to Mr. John G. Shea's translation of that time, much after the fashion of the shawl-making and ivery-carving of India until recently. The is a very brilliant plumaged creature which seems a cross between a parrot and a bird of paradise. It is of so free a spirit that it cannot be tamed,

Mr. Brigham has travelled across Guatemala.

Mr. Brigham is an observing traveller and has made the most of expeditions presenting singularly few feaures of general interest. It must be concluded that his equanimity was a good deal disturbed by the half wild dogs he found at every house, or he would hardly have put in print so sweeping and vindictive a philippic against dogs in general as he gives vent to. Fancy a nineteenth century man saying in cold blood that the Guatemalan dogs are "useless for the only purpose tesides hunting the dog seems to have been created for-human food." There is no civilization in that sentence, but how melancholy a confession of a temperamental defect involving infinite loss of delight and consolation. The man who hates dogs is indeed to be sincerely pitied; as a rule too, though we make no present application of it) he is a man to be held aloof, as one not furnished forth with a full humanity. Mr. Brigham has filustrated his book from photographs, and generally in a felicitous way. He has also shown his business sense in providing an index to it.

CLASSIC AMERICAN LITERATURE.

WASHINGTON IRVING REPUBLISHED. The Tappan Zee Edition. G. P. Putnam's Sons. New-York. Somebody who must have been intensely absorbed In the questions pertaining to "literary movements," "literary centres," and the "literary schools" of Boston, or Virginia, or Chicago, has recently made the dis-covery, like Mr. Donnelly's "important, if true," that then the publishing house which from long experience should be able to gauge most accurately the market for Irving's works must have made a serious miscalculation. The astonishing announcement that Irving ance of a beautiful volume picturing his home and haunts, and the publication of a new edition of his most charming books. Perhaps the nearness of stories of Campobello and Mt. Desert filtrations, or of Russian literature and "realistic" fiction produced a false perspective. Perhaps the discovery might as well never have been made. The "clever" and sensational enjoy their temporary vogue, and the penny trumpets of their eulogists are sometimes mistaken for the trump of fame, but pure literature is not so common that any mutual admiration circle of our time can afford to ignore one who might be called the father of American classic literature. The phrase is inade-quate, for the classics, we are told, are books which are admired and never read. It is hardly worth while to prove from the statistics of the litraries that the most delightful prose writer of the old Knickerbocker literary circle is still read, nor to draw upon the ex-perience of publishers, for with that portion of the public which does not confine its reading to pirated "shilling shockers," or to periodicals, proof would be superfluous. The appearance, more than two generations after he began to write, of a new edition of an American author whose popularity long preceded the opening of the Victorian era, and has continued through all manner of literary revolutions, is certainly encouraging to lovers of good literature.

When Irving gave the "Sketch-Book to the world, the Byronic craze was nearing its height. To-day romanti-cism has given place to realism, although the Russian craze already shows signs of a decline, but the mellow bumor, delicate fancy and wholesome inspiration of Irving retain a loyal audience. This genuine affection is not dependent upon fashion, nor is it due to style, the quality upon which most stress is faid in our time. The crisp, nervous, epigrammatic, is in demand, and the day of leisurely writing seems to have gone by. The essay as formerly understood no leager thrives on our end, and the easy-going sketch

quote Mr. howells, witch is often forced and fairly hysterical in its attempt at eleverness. To this tension and consciousness the self-control, repose and case of Irving offer a grateful contrast, even though his style is not the one which we would prefet to see prevalent to-day. The Addisonian pattern, upon which he founded himself to a considerable extent, involves too many dangers to be unreservedly commended. It is not the fault of our own taste if we find Irving sometimes overgarrulous, or sometimes, especially is his histories, inclined to the grandlose and Johnsonian His style is far from being impeccable, although its purity and charm are undeniable. The interesting point is that the complete variance of his style from the style of our day has not deprived him of favor Delightful as his style must always be on some ac counts, this continued popularity illustrates, as it seems to us, the superfority of matter, and, of course the artist's attitude toward his work, over form. was not "mastery of pure English." but spontaneity, sincerity, fancy, humor, a true raconteur's feeling for the picturesque and amusing, and a fund of healthy iment which have made Irving a classic, and i classic who is read. In the twelve volumes of the "Tappan Zee Edition" are included the more popular All the biographies and "Bonneville," and "Astoria" are emitted. This little "handy volume" series is convenient on many accounts, and although the paper and typography are not equal to the found serviceable, while the covers in cloth in two colors stamped in gold with arabesque designs are ornamental. The imitation of tooling makes a far better showing than the bulk of cover decoration, and the edition commends itself to the eye.

THE CYCLOPÆDIA OF BIOGRAPHY.

APPLETON'S CYCLOP.EDIA OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY. Edited by JAMES GRANT WILSON and JOHN FISKE. Vol. III. Grianell-Lackwood. Royal Svo. pp. x., 752. D. Appleton & Co. The new volume of this dictionary contains a large propertion of important historical articles, several of which have especial claims to consideration ography of "President Lincoln" by Colonel John Hay deserves the first place. It is full, concise, remarkably clear in the brief and pointed statement of events and definition of policies, precise in detail without superabundance, often extremely happy in charac-terizing men and incidents by a single phrase. The history of Mr. Lincoln's admininistration, including the chief events of the war, is succinctly and sufficiently told; his personality is effectively presented; and his political position is described exactly. To do all this so well, in the compass of a few pages, shows the fine workmanship for which Coionel Hay's the fine workmanship for which countries writing is no less distinguished than for more brilliant qualities. A good sketch of "Robert E. Lee" is furnished by George Cary Eggleston, though perhaps many students of the war, both North and South, will think that the estimate of the Confederate general's military abilities might well have been higher The tone of the article is so candid that we are sur prised to find it giving countenance to the familia neeption that Lee continued the contest until his force was reduced to less than 10,000 men. The resistance of the Army of Virginia practically ended with the evacuation of Peter-burg and Richmond, when Lee's strength is supposed to have been nearly 60,000; the next seven days were spent by lim in an attempt to escape from Grant, who followed hard, capturing the fugitives by whele divisions and corps. and it was when he could flee no longer that Le surrendered at Appointatiox, not 10,000 men, but it was because they had thrown away their arm but to his credit. If he had fought his army to extinction he would have been guilty of a criminal sacrifice of life. "Hooker," "Halleck," the "Johnwar biographies; they are all treated sympathetically The article on "President Hayes" is from the pen of Mr. Schurz, who treats with sufficient fulness the principal labors of the Hayes administration in finance but is less satisfactory in his brief and perfunctor; account of the dispute over the electoral votes Mr. John Fiske makes several important confribu

tions in earlier American history-" Governor Hutchin son," "Andrew Jackson," "Lafayette," "Charles Lee and the Lee family of Virginia. As usual he is bump tious, throwing such epithets as "silly" and "stupid" at anybody he does not like or anything of which he isted to Mr. James Parton, whose admiration his subject is not always judicious. His injustice plorer's "Description de la Louisiane," but seems voyage down the Mississippi, of which Bennepin has long borne the odium, was not written by Hennepin. but was foisted into his second work by some bookseller's back. That the narrative is an interpola tion added after the book was printed, Mr. Shea makes certain, and that Hennepin did not write it he shows to be highly probable. If this defence of the Recollet missionary adventurer is accepted, we must revise our estimate of one of the most curious figures in the history of western exploration. The famous Califor-nia missionary, Father Junipero Serra, is treated under "Junipero," where his name is given as "Mignel Je-Serra Junipero"—certainly an odd enough inversion. Mi William Henry Hurlbert is entered under the wrong name. He does not call himself "Hurlout," although his brother, the general, did.

A STRANGE PICTURE.

A STRANGE PICTURE.

Vienna Letter to The London Daily News.

A most extraordinary picture is being exhibited in Vienna just now, the "Pieta," by A. Bocklin, purchased for the National Callery at teriin, at the price of 40,000 marks. terman critics have called it one of the best works German art has at any time produced, and so, all things considered. I suppose it is, Bocklin is not every man's painter, and although the highly cultivated stand in ecstacles around every canvas be has signed, those who are endowed with but ordinary human eves and an average understanding shale their heads and move slicintly away. In Franz von Leubach's studio I once saw a very small Bocklin, which he had just finished, and had left there for Malart and Leubach to judge. There was a female figure und to a tree, a woman by no means becautiful—but then bocklin is not particular in selecting his models, and always pains them exactly as he sees them. On the greenest grass I ever saw, at the woman's feet, withed a dragen or serpent, presenting all the colors of the rainbow; in the background violet mountains, and above, a cold, steel blue sky. That was all. Loubach had told me that it was a Bocklin; so as I could not admire, I gazed in silence. At least he grew impatient, and said: "Beautiful, Isn't it?" "Is it?" was all I dared at first reply. "Can you with your hand on your heart, say it is beautiful? I added, when I had taken courage. "Well, no. Perhaps not beautiful, but useful, instructive to us painters." That is Bocklin.

I will not attempt to describe his last picture, which is quite a sensational event in the world of

I will not attempt to describe his last picture which is quite a sensational event in the world of German act. The picture is in horizontal line dividing it into so many sections. There is a laye of gray granite at the bottom, upon which repose a thick slab of white marble, and where they mee of gray granite at the bottom, upon which reposes a thick slab of white marble, and where they meet a row of flowers, oleanders and roses, draws a rigid line. On the marble slab lies the outstretched figure of Christ, straight, stiff, and fearfully death like, the beard standing erect from the chin and disclosing the neck and breast. Over this motionless death like, the beard standing erect from the chin and disclosing the neck and breast. Over this motionless death like, the heard standing erect from the chin and disclosing the neck and breast. Over this motionless death like, the beard standing erect from the chin and disclosing the neck and the artist, too modest to grapple with so great a task as the picturing of an agontzed mother, shows nothing of her save her two hands, one thin, transparent, warm with life and motion, pressing hard against the pale shoulder of the dead, the other inserted among his tangled locks. All the rest is a cloak of deep blue, almost black. The back ground is the steel-blue sky of nightfall, cold not withstanding its intensity of color. Out of this blue ether rises without an attempt at transition, a balcony of warm brownish and yellowish clouds, dark below, bright above, and in their centre a figure leans forward with outstretched arm, gazing fixidly downward at the prostrate Mother of Christ. All the power of his palette has locklin concentrated in this figure, with its purple garments, its brilliant flesh and shining chestnut hair. Behind it a group of baby angels witness the scene, and express joy, surprise and sorrow in their pretty and very human countenances. The light of heaven surrounds these figures in the upper part of the platting is shown at night only, by the light of half a dozen bright foot lamps. Of course this artificial effect will have to be given up when the picture has taken its place in the Bright Mational Gallery, where it will be seen in the Bright light of day. When we have got over the first shock caused by the assertion that the bright light of day. Wh

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Droposals.

ROOM 200, STEWART BUILDING, No. 280 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NOV. 17, 1887. TO CONTRACTORS.

Bids or proposals for doing the work and furnishing the materials called for in the approved form of contract now on file in the office of the Aqueduct Commissioners for building a Masonry Dam and work connected therewith on the East Branch of the Croton River in the Town of South East, Putman County, New-York, will be received at the office and the defendent to 7th The day of December, 1887, at 3 o'clock p. m., at which place and hour they will be publicly opened by the Aqueduct Commissioners and the award of the contract for doing said work and furnishing said in the said in the said approved contract, and the specifications thereof, and bidsor proposals, and proper curve(specific their encloure, and form of bonds; and also the place for said work and all other information can be obtained at the above office of the remediation of the secretary. AUNDRESS.—By a French woman, to do up fine work in first class style by the day or at home. NURSE and SEAMSTRESS.—By a young French girl, speaking vory little English, as nurse to growing children, is a next hand sever and would do some chamberwork; references from last place, 602 0th ave., 1st By order of the Aqueduct Commissioners.

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JOHN C. SHEEHAN, Secretary. NURSE, SEAMSTRESS and CHAMBER-MAID-By neal scart young girl, ten months' city informace, wants good place, city or country. Call 1,035 8th-ave, between 57th and 58th stry.

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By order of the Aqueduct Commissioners, JAMES C. SPENCER, President JOHN C. SHEEHAN, Secretary.

felp Wanted.

A DVERTISEMENTS FOR THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE UPTOWN OFFICES, No. 1,238 Broadway, corner Thirty first st., until 9 p. m., 950 Broadway, between Twenty second and Twenty third sts., until 8 p. m., 308 West Twenty-third st., corner Eighth ave., 152 Sixth ave., 153 Fourth ave., or her Fourteenth st., 700 Third ave., corner Forty-seventhal 1,007 Third ave., near Sixtleth st.

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